

Letter from William Thomson (1st Baron Kelvin) to Gilbert Grosvenor, March 20, 1905

15 Eaton Place, S.W. 20th.Mar.1905. Dear Mr Grosvenor

When I received Mr Graham Bell's letter and your own letter of Feb.7th, I thought I might be able to write to you something in regard to the telephone which could be useful to you in your history. At that time I had not access to a copy of my Address to the British Association at Glasgow in September, 1876; but I have since sent for a copy, and I find that it expresses quite what I would have tried to write to you; but as I see you have it in your hands, and also my official Report as one of the judges, I am afraid there is nothing left that I could write to you usefully.

I need not repeat an expression of my intense admiration for your father-in-law's grand discovery: but I may say that it is a very great pleasure to have been a witness of the great marvel, which has proved to be a benefit of such vast value to the world, as the telephone is.

The last Emperor of Brazil was with me when Mr Graham Bell told us that he had something to show, which he thought would interest us: and showed us and let us hear the telephone then and there; if I remember right, about 5 o'clock on a Sunday morning, but I am not quite sure if this is correct.

Believe me, with much regret for having put you to the trouble of writing a second time by my delay,

Yours very truly Kelvin